

terials had to be cleaned and fumigated; some had to be repaired or photographed before they could be used.

It is obvious that all of this could not be done overnight, or in the course of a year. It is equally obvious that with such an enormous amount of materials it was wise to turn most of the attention of the staff to the first steps in the process, leaving for a later time the preparation of indexes, catalogues and other guides. Each year, in his Annual Reports, Dr. Robertson listed the various series which had been unfolded, those which had been boxed, and so forth. An accessions book was begun and pushed rather far along, although it was impossible to do much with the unbound materials. Moreover, a good deal had later to be done over because it was decided to correct certain errors which had been committed in identifying some of the Court of Appeals and Land Office materials before their transfer to the Hall of Records.

In considering the amount of work accomplished one point should be borne in mind. In 1935, the study of archival procedure was just beginning. There is still no universal agreement on most matters of reception and arrangement, but in the course of ten years of intense interest in these fields certain formulae have been advanced and certain patterns developed. The handling of so much difficult material all at once at the Hall of Records, therefore, had to begin haltingly—and after it began, a good deal had to be done over again. This experience has doubtless been repeated in every archival institution in the country. In those days even the pitfalls which appear most obvious to us now were not suspected. For example, the papers having to do with admissions to the Bar were included in the collection which came from the Court of Appeals called "Miscellaneous Papers." The Bar papers were extracted from the file and now form a curious series running for a limited period of time and independent of the classifications set up by the Court of Appeals. Again the Papers of the Prerogative Court which had a semblance of chronological arrangement were rearranged in chronological order but in three series depending on the size of the papers. This was done in order to avoid folding. The Anne Arundel County Wills which had been in chronological order were put in alphabetical order. None of these projects would be thought of today; in many cases it has taken more time and ingenuity to restore these series